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M. De Jonge  
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**CAMBRIDGE COMMENTARIES ON  
WRITINGS OF THE JEWISH AND CHRISTIAN WORLD  
200 BC TO AD 200  
VOLUME 4**

**Outside the Old Testament**

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WRITINGS OF THE JEWISH AND CHRISTIAN WORLD  
200 BC TO AD 200

*General Editors:*

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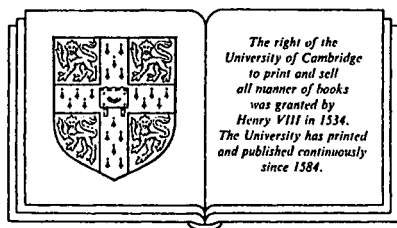
- 1 i *Jews in the Hellenistic World: Josephus, Aristeas, the Sibylline Oracles, Eupolemus* – J. R. Bartlett
- 1 ii *Jews in the Hellenistic World: Philo* – R. Williamson
- 2 *The Qumran Community* – M. A. Knibb
- 3 *Early Rabbinic Writings* – H. Maccoby
- 4 *Outside the Old Testament* – M. de Jonge
- 5 *Outside the New Testament* – G. N. Stanton
- 6 *Jews and Christians: Graeco-Roman Views* – M. Whittaker
- 7 *The Jewish and Christian World 200 BC to AD 200* – A. R. C. Leaney

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# OUTSIDE THE OLD TESTAMENT

M. DE JONGE



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## General Editors' Preface

The three general editors of the Cambridge Bible Commentary series have all, in their teaching, experienced a lack of readily usable texts of the literature which is often called pseudepigrapha but which is more accurately defined as extra-biblical or para-biblical literature. The aim of this new series is to help fill this gap.

The welcome accorded to the Cambridge Bible Commentary has encouraged the editors to follow the same pattern here, except that carefully chosen extracts from the texts, rather than complete books, have normally been provided for comment. The introductory material leads naturally into the text, which itself leads into alternating sections of commentary.

Within the severe limits imposed by the size and scope of the series, each contributor will attempt to provide for the student and general reader the results of modern scholarship, but has been asked to assume no specialized theological or linguistic knowledge.

The volumes already planned cover the writings of the Jewish and Christian World from about 200 BC to AD 200 and are being edited as follows:

- 1 i *Jews in the Hellenistic World: Josephus, Aristeas, the Sibylline Oracles, Eupolemus* – J. R. Bartlett, Trinity College, Dublin
- 1 ii *Jews in the Hellenistic World: Philo* – R. Williamson, University of Leeds
- 2 *The Qumran Community* – M. A. Knibb, King's College, London
- 3 *Early Rabbinic Writings* – H. Maccoby, Leo Baeck College, London
- 4 *Outside the Old Testament* – M. de Jonge, University of Leiden
- 5 *Outside the New Testament* – G. N. Stanton, King's College, London
- 6 *Jews and Christians: Graeco-Roman Views* – M. Whittaker, University of Nottingham

A seventh volume by one of the general editors, A. R. C. Leaney, *The Jewish and Christian World 200 BC to AD 200*, examines the wider historical and literary background to the period and includes tables of dates, relevant lists and maps. Although this companion volume will preface and augment the series, it may also be read as complete in itself and be used as a work of general reference.

P. R. A. A. R. C. L. J. W. P.

## Editor's Foreword

This volume brings together extracts from and introductions to twelve writings dealing with prominent Old Testament figures. They tell what happened to them, what God revealed to them and through them, and try to bring home to their readers what can be learned from their examples and their explicit exhortations. Often there is also an outlook on the future intended to comfort and to encourage the readers in the difficult circumstances they have to endure.

These writings all belong to the so-called 'Pseudepigrapha' of the Old Testament – a term used (rather loosely) 'to cover writings connected with biblical books, personalities or themes, which failed to be included in any canon, even among the Apocrypha' – so A. R. C. Leaney in *The Jewish and Christian World 200 BC to AD 200*, p. 158, in this series, who also gives an extensive list of writings which may be ranged under this category.

This volume, like the others in this series, is modest in scope. The extracts from the selected writings have been chosen and introduced by authors who have dealt with them also in other contexts, often in much detail. The editor is very grateful to them for consenting to share their specialist knowledge. Obviously many details have had to be omitted and divergent opinions and supporting arguments of other specialists in the field could only very seldom be mentioned. The various contributions to this volume simply aim at introducing a fascinating collection of writings and showing ways to explore this area a little further. The authors have tried to convey their own interest in and enthusiasm for these books 'Outside the Old Testament'.

A number of people have given me help and advice in the preparation of this book. I record here with gratitude the advice given by the General Editors and by my friends George W. E. Nickelsburg and Michael E. Stone. Mrs Th. C. C. M. Heesterman-Visser gave valuable secretarial help and assisted in the preparation of the final manuscript.

## Acknowledgements

Excerpts from the Testament of Abraham, the Syriac Apocalypse of Baruch and the Testament of Job are reprinted by permission of Doubleday and Company, Inc. from *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*, volume I, edited by James H. Charlesworth, copyright © 1983 by James H. Charlesworth.

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## Abbreviations

### *Josephus*

<i>War</i>	<i>The Jewish War</i>
<i>Ant.</i>	<i>Antiquities of the Jews</i>
<i>Apion</i>	<i>Against Apion or Contra Apion</i>

### *Philo*

Cher	De Cherubim
Congr	De Congressu Eruditionis Gratia
Ebr	De Ebrietate
Fug	De Fuga et Inventione
Migr Abr	De Migratione Abrahami
Op Mund	De Opificio Mundi
Praem Poen	De Praemiis et Poenis
Sobr	De Sobrietate
Som	De Somniis
Spec Leg	De Specialibus Legibus
Virt	De Virtutibus
Vit Cont	De Vita Contemplativa
Vit Mos	De Vita Mosis

### *Pseudepigrapha*

ApAB	Apocalypse of Abraham
TAb	Testament of Abraham
2Bar	2 (Syriac) Baruch
3Bar	3 (Greek) Baruch
4Bar	4 Baruch
ApEl	Apocalypse of Elijah
1En	1 (Ethiopic) Enoch
2En	2 (Slavonic) Enoch
3En	3 (Hebrew) Enoch
4Ezra	4 Ezra
GkApEzra	Greek Apocalypse of Ezra
AscenIs	Ascension of Isaiah
MartIs	Martyrdom of Isaiah
TJob	Testament of Job
JosAsen	Joseph and Aseneth

Jub	Jubilees
LAB	<i>Liber Antiquitatum Biblicarum</i>
ApMos	Apocalypse of Moses
AsMos	Assumption of Moses
PJ	<i>Paraleipomena Jeremiou</i>
Ps-Philo	Pseudo-Philo
SibOr	Sibylline Oracles
PssSol	Psalms of Solomon
T12P	Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs
TReu	Testament of Reuben
TSim	Testament of Simeon
TLevi	Testament of Levi
TJud	Testament of Judah
TIss	Testament of Issachar
TZeb	Testament of Zebulun
TDan	Testament of Dan
TNaph	Testament of Naphtali
TGad	Testament of Gad
TAsh	Testament of Asher
TJos	Testament of Joseph
TBenj	Testament of Benjamin

*Qumran Documents*

CD	Damascus Document
1QH	Hymns, Hodayot
1QM	War Scroll
1QpHab	Commentary on Habbakuk
1QS	Community Rule, or Manual of Discipline
1QSa	Messianic Rule

*Other Abbreviations*

AGJU	Arbeiten zur Geschichte des antiken Judentums und des Urchristentums
ALGHJ	Arbeiten zur Literatur und Geschichte des hellenistischen Judentums
AOAT	Alter Orient und Altes Testament
A.R.N.	Abot de Rabbi Nathan
b.	Babylonian Talmud
CBQ	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
Gr.	Greek
Hebr. t.	Hebrew text

## Abbreviations

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<i>HTR</i>	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
<i>HUCA</i>	<i>Hebrew Union College Annual</i>
<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
<i>JJS</i>	<i>Journal of Jewish Studies</i>
<i>JSHRZ</i>	Jüdische Schriften aus hellenistisch-römischer Zeit
<i>P<sub>s</sub>VTGr</i>	Pseudepigrapha Veteris Testamenti Graece
<i>P.Targ.</i>	Palestinian Targum
<i>R.</i>	Rabbah
<i>SBL</i>	Society of Biblical Literature
<i>SC</i>	Sources chrétiennes
<i>SCS</i>	Septuagint and Cognate Studies
<i>Strack-Billerbeck</i>	H. L. Strack and P. Billerbeck, <i>Kommentar zum Neuen Testament aus Talmud und Midrasch</i> , 6 vols., Munich, 1974–5 (repr.)
<i>StVTPs</i>	<i>Studia in Veteris Testamenti Pseudepigrapha</i>
<i>TU</i>	<i>Texte und Untersuchungen</i>
<i>y.</i>	<i>Yerushalmi (Palestinian Talmud)</i>